

NEWS

PLAN,
Continued from Page 1

made available that will eventually become their permanent space.”

The meeting helped to gather the views of everyone involved in the planning process.

“What we do know is that we have some options,” said Valentin. “What we wanted to do is broadcast and alert folks that this thing is happening ... incorporate the views of everyone who is going to be involved.”

The buildings that will be affected by this first master plan are buildings 10, 11, 19, 283, 923 and 201. The first two buildings to be remodeled within the next year are building 19, in which Safety is

currently located, and Four Winds.

“The Safety building, which used to be the brig, will become the ‘Brig and Brew,’” said Valentin. This will be the enlisted club with a sports bar flavor to it, serving food and beverages.

The Four Winds building will become a conference center with classrooms and meeting rooms to be used by permanent personnel here and anyone who wants to have a reunion or meeting on the Depot.

Two midrange projects, which are about 18 months into the future, are the reutilization of building 283, where the Public Affairs Office and Visitors Center are located, and the food court

behind the Marine Corps Exchange.

On a longer timeline, the plan calls for building 11 to become the Joint Reception Center, and the recapture of building 10.

“We are very excited about the concept at building 11,” Valentin said. “What we want to do is maximize the use of available space there. We barely use the top floor right now. Number one, we would have to do a major renovation of the historical building, making sure that it is structurally sound. Then, make it more convenient for our permanent personnel and their family when they first arrive by having a one-stop shopping for all check-in.”

The center would have a representative from each section such as PMO, housing, and DCAC, who will check in Marines.

Adjacent to building 11 is building 10, another building that is under historical limitations. If not structurally sound, or renovation costs are found to be too high, the building may be demolished to make way for a parking lot after approval from the Historical Society, according to Valentin.

The next planning meeting will be held in January. At this meeting, all recommendations and comments will have already been gathered and the final decisions on the first two projects will be made, according to Valentin.

SecDef gives nod
to GWOT medals

CPL. JENNIFER BROFER
STAFF WRITER

The Secretary of Defense approved standards for the new Global War on Terrorism medals, which were authorized by President George W. Bush in March.

Marines are not authorized to wear the ribbons or medals until final guidance is established by the Secretary of the Navy and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. said Capt. Melanie Hudson, the Depot Adjutant. The ribbon and medal, which are still in the creation process, are scheduled to be available to Marines sometime in April or May.

According to Executive Order 13289, the GWOT Expeditionary Medal will be awarded to service members who “have been deployed abroad for service in the Global War on Terrorism operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001 and to a future date to be determined.” This is limited to those who deploy as part of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The general area of eligibility includes all foreign land, water and air spaces outside the 50 states of the U.S. and outside 200 nautical miles of U.S. shores.

Service members must be assigned, attached or mobilized to a unit participating in designated operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the

area of eligibility, or meet one of the following criteria:

- Be engaged in actual combat against the enemy under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action, regardless of time in the area of eligibility.
- While participating in the designated operation, regardless of time, is killed, wounded or injured requiring medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

Service members who are assigned as air crew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom will also be awarded the medal. Each day one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30- or 60-day requirement.

The GWOT Service Medal will recognize service members who have participated in operations to combat terrorism, but is limited to Operation Noble Eagle and to those who have provided support from outside the area of eligibility designated for the GWOT Expeditionary Medal.

The Combatant Commander has the authority to award the medals for approved operations to units and personnel deployed within his or her theater. Each service department will prescribe the appropriate regulations for processing and wearing of the medals.

TOYS,
Continued from Page 1

raising and support organization for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

The mission of the Toys for Tots Foundation, which is governed by a board of 11 former and retired Marines, is to raise funds to provide toys to supplement the collections of local Toys for Tots coordinators; defray the costs of conducting annual Toys for Tots campaigns; provide administrative, advisory, financial, logistic and promotional support of local coordinators; provide other support that the Marine Corps, as a federal agency, cannot provide; and conduct public education and information programs which call the general public to action in support of Toys for Tots.

Since 1991, the foundation has supplemented local toy collections with more than 40.4 million toys. The Foundation also provides a great deal of promotional and support materials, which enables local Toys for Tots coordinators to conduct more effective local campaigns.

Today, Toys for Tots is one of the nation’s flagship and most visible Christmas charitable cause with local campaigns conducted from October through December each year in 456 communities nationwide.

For more information on the local Toys for Tots campaign, contact Staff Sgt. Archie Schubert, the Lowcountry Toys for Tots coordinator at (912) 247-1629.